

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
September/October 2001



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Society or the Editor

**Deadline
for next edition
November 26th**

**February 24th 2001
Phoenix Euro Rally
in Coolmine, Dublin**

**March 2/3rd 2002
IRTS AGM
in Knock, Co. Mayo**

**IRTS
Committee Meeting**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Athlone**

**Saturday November 10th
At 1100**



Cork Radio Club members who operated EI5CRC/p in the recent SSB Field Day.
Chuck EI4IS, Anatoly LY2BCB Jeremy EI5GM, Finbarr EI1CS

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From the Editor.....

Welcome to another edition of Echo Ireland. I hope you enjoy the content. My thanks to all who contributed but we could do with some more input. Club officers are asked to forward their news to news@irts.ie for both the radio news bulletins and the newsletter. In particular, your pictures would be appreciated. The big news this time is the IARU's decision to recommend the reduction of Morse Code to five words per minute. IRTS has been asking the ODTR to do just that since news of the CEPT changes came to hand. We are still waiting. It seems inevitable that the CW requirement will be abolished at the next WRC. Our neighbours in the UK have introduced a new foundation licence that virtually makes CW irrelevant and we wait with interest to see how that experiment works out. (see page 19) In particular, we want to see what happens to the existing B licensee, who is the loser in the current proposals. The RA representative at the Leicester show seemed to suggest that a solution will be found before the new licence is implemented on January 1st next. The whole concept is a brave decision that has been met with mixed feelings.

Another major development is the proposed logbook of the world which will facilitate award claims without paper QSL cards. (see page 6). This will cause much disquiet amongst traditionalists in the hobby. Again, it is inevitable that modern technology will be used to make our life easier but paper QSL cards should continue for quite some time to come.

The internet is being widely held responsible for the reduced numbers entering the hobby and for the reduced activity of those already licensed. I do not agree. The internet is a wonderful tool and makes our hobby more enjoyable. Never was so much information available to amateurs.

There will always be the percentage of amateurs who were never really into radio and use then internet as an alternative.

Amateur radio is a technical hobby and this should not be lost sight of. There is a great danger that developments around the world have ignored this basic fact and we may pay a high price for bigger numbers. This does not mean that all amateurs have to be engineers but basic radio theory must continue as a requirement for an amateur licence.

It will be a sad day if the only difference between ourselves and mobile phone users is the fact that we do not have to pay by the minute.

The next issue is due at the printers on December the 3rd so input by the end of November please.

Dave EI4BZ



**Looking after the door at the Cork Rally
John O'Sullivan EI3EC and Frank Mason EI6EVB**

International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council Calls for end to Morse Requirement

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council this week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz."

The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute."

The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2. The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval--without opposition--of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544.

That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs.

The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003.

Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz.

The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
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Welcome to another On The Air column.

There seems to be life in the Sunspot Cycle still because despite a low key announcement that Cycle 23 apparently peaked on April 2000 with a Smoothed Sunspot Number (SSN) of 121, Wednesday the 26th of September saw the Solar Flux Index (SFI) rise to 282 units, the highest value of this Cycle so far!

Last time figures were near this high was back in March this year when we had a few weeks of large Sunspot Groups and Flares to go with them.

Of course this level of activity in the last couple of weeks has also led to a return of Flares and Coronal Mass Ejections, particularly on the 24th of September, when a Class X2 Flare led to a Polar Cap Absorption Event which degraded the path over the North Pole when, unfortunately, the K3J DX-pedition was in full flight, more on that later.

All the high Solar Activity did bring about some excellent openings and DX on the higher HF bands of 10m and 12m, especially since we have just passed the Autumnal Equinox with fabulous openings to Japan and the rest of the Pacific. The Sunspot numbers averaged around 220 at the Equinox which if you compare them last year when they were 113 shows how good the bands are now. Last time the Sunspots were this high at the Autumnal Equinox was way back at the peak of the previous Cycle in 1989 when they averaged 219!

Band Reports

The major DX-pedition of September was the K3J trip to Johnston Atoll (OC-023) which due to the tragic events in New York on Sept 11th came on air a bit later than planned.

Despite Flares and the usual "well-behaved" European mob they managed to make just under 20,000 QSO's but they didn't have that good a signal at times into EI when all I could hear was white noise hi!

Then when they were quite loud the operator had a strange practice of working stations country by country after the by numbers wasn't quite cutting it due to our Southern cousins not been able to count. All was not doom and gloom though because demonstrating how a DX trip should be executed were well known CW ops Roger G3SXW and

Nigel G3TXF, who came on from the Chatham Islands as ZL7/Home calls. Showing a preference for frequencies ending in "-023" they proved to be quite easy to work on all bands and were especially good on 10m at times.

Lots of rare IOTA's kept us island chasers happy with yours truly snagging no less than eleven new islands in the month of September alone.

Gerard, PA3AXU, was very much QRV from various Pacific DXCC's appearing as 3D2XU, T30XU and C21XU with a good signal on both 20m and 15m but again Southern and Eastern Europe seemed to have the edge over us on 10m. Still I managed to catch 3D2AG on Fiji for a new band country on 10m so I was kept happy hi!

Bert PA3GIO made a return trip to Christmas Island as VK9XV, later going onto Cocos or Keeling Island as VK9CQ. He's probably gone QRT from Lord Howe Island as VK9LO by the time you read this so hope he made it into some of your logs.

Also QRT by the time we go to print will be the second trip to Conway Reef, scheduled to take place from Oct 1-10, but delayed to Oct 6th by delays in some equipment arriving in Fiji by much the same group who were there earlier in the year as 3D2CI, hopefully propagation will favour us here in the mid-latitudes for a change. During the first 24 hours they suffered a power generator failure but even on reduced power were a good signal early in the mornings and I finally managed to work them on 17m for an all-time new one. Two callsigns were used, 3D2CI on CW, and 3D2CY on Phone, the team went QRT around 07:00z on Thursday the 11th of October with over 31,00 QSO's, 2,000 of them on RTTY.

Getting a taste of the pile-up from the other side Paul, EI2CA, showed up from St Croix US Virgin Islands as KP2/EI2CA with an excellent signal on 10m.

The Spanish ops trip to Guatemala to install a digital communications network were very active as TG0R and I counted ten different EI calls on various bands in their on-line log so well done to all.

Kuwati Amateur Radio Society said that all Kuwaiti stations could simultaneously use the callsign 9K2USA to show support for the American people, most

prolific operator using the call was Bob, normally 9K2ZZ, but it was a bit strange to hear so many people using the call! QSL's will be handled by the National Society 9K2RA using a central database of all the logs. Also 8R1USA came on air to show support, as did ZK1USA from the Cook Islands.

As I didn't receive any logs for this issue you'll have to suffer some extracts from the '2HY logs which is mainly made up of IOTA's, so if you don't want to suffer the same fate next time try and submit a copy of what you're working or even hearing!

10m

As mentioned previously Ten is certainly coming into it's own this part of the Cycle with excellent paths to the Pacific and some huge West Coast of North America openings.

Amongst those worked were: 3D2AG, 9N7QJ, EM1HO, JW5X, and TG0R.

An interesting QSO among a huge JA pile up was working JA6PA walking around downtown Tokyo using 5 watts from a Yaesu FT817 with a telescopic whip.

15m

Some interesting prefixes popped up from Islands in September in the guise of: 4F8BOF (OC-130), 4TOI (SA-052), which are the Philippines and Peru respectively; CN2LE (AF-065), KL7AK/P (NA-053), RI9K (AS-109), TG0R, VK9XV, YC2MTA/P (OC-237), YC4FIJ (OC-144) and finally YJ0AXC who was on OC-110 for IOTA.

20m

Activity is still high from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan with A52KR and A52UL both worked within ten minutes of each other and the good news is that the newly formed Bhutan Amateur Radio Club will be inaugurated on 26th October and to celebrate will be very much QRV as A50A in the CQ WW Contest since receiving some very generous donations of rigs and other goodies hi!

Finishing up the short log extract for twenty: B14F (AS-160), FO0FLA (OC-050), TF4RX (EU-168), VK7TS/4 (OC-171), WB8YTZ/VE2 (NA-077), ZK1AHB (OC-195), and the Chatham guys with ZL7/G3SXW. ZK1AHB was just one of the people active from both North and South Cook Islands, also very active were Mike, KM9D/ZK1QMA

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

and YL Jan, KF4TUG/ZK1TUG, who between them made over 10,400 QSO's from North Cook (OC-082) with Mike been quite loud on 10m late some nights. It was very hard to break the USA pile-up as the beam heading for ZK on short path passes right through central USA.

Guy, FW5ZL, came on from the rarish Futuna part of Wallis and Futuna Islands as FW5ZL/P on IOTA OC-118 and if you still need to confirm the following calls from Madagascar, Phil, G3SWH, upon meeting some of the locals during his trip there is now the QSL manager for 5R8's FL, FT, FV, GO and GZ.

The war torn country of Sierra Leone is once more on air with Elmer, a Doctor, QRV as 9L1DX. No stranger to Africa or DX Elmer was previously active as 7Q7DX and P29DX.

An unusual callsign also came on air as a result of the previously mentioned tragedy in New York when the Kuwati Amateur Radio Society said that all Kuwaiti stations could simultaneously use the callsign 9K2USA to show support for the American people, most prolific operator using the call was Bob, normally 9K2ZZ, but it was a bit strange to hear so many people using the call! QSL's will be handled by the National Society 9K2RA using a central database of all the logs.

Well known Global DXer Mako, JA1OEM, along with Toshi, JA1ELY, came on from Botswana as A25/Home calls, keeping the faithful happy, as not too much is heard from this African country these days.

Staying in Southern Africa DL4WK, DL7DF, DL7KL and DL7UFR were QRV as 3DA0DF and 3DA0DR from Swaziland.

Looking Ahead

October signals the start of the major contest season with the Phone leg of the CQ WW Contest happening on the last full weekend. This contest more than any other has ops heading to all sorts of far-flung Islands and countries, here's a sample of who to listen out for:

The Caribbean proves to be a very popular spot for RF so the battle this year will include 6Y6L, J3A, J75J, VP2E and some Italians operating from Guadeloupe as FM5GU.

For years the Top 5 in the world always included HC8N from the Galapagos Islands, P40V from Aruba, ZX0F from Fernando De Noronha and EA8BH from the Canaries, now a new contest location

may challenge all the above!

Members of the Italian Marconi Contest Club have plans to build a "super station" on Sal Island (AF-086) part of the Cape Verde Islands, listen out for D44TC making its debut this year.

A large international team led by Victor ZK1CG, are set to mount the best equipped DX-pedition to Manihiki Atoll (OC-014), part of the North Cook Islands, for the CQ WW Phone.

Some JA ops, Yuu JR2KDN, and Yasu JL1NJC will also be on North Cook between Oct 20-Nov 3 but on Penrhyn (OC-082).

JA6WFM will be QRV as HR3J from Honduras while a big group will activate Zone 2 as VB2V. Plenty of signals should come out of East Malaysia as starting off from Oct 10-14 Mat, JA1JQJ, and Kuni, JA8VE, will fire up as 9M6JQT and 9M6VET.

9M6A will be active from the Hillside Garden Resort, QSL to N200, while KD3TB and KD3RF will sign as 9M6TBT.

Staying around South East Asia, Alain F6BFH, leads a large group of French ops to Cambodia as XU7ABW hits the air between Oct 22-Nov 10 with a (hopefully) side trip to AS-133.

Watch out for Eritrea to be on air when E30NA starts up Oct 17-Nov 3 with possibly all the operation taking place either from the Capital or from the Dahlak Archipelago (IOTA AF-038).

Ending up October are SP9PT and SP9EVP going to Norfolk Island (OC-005) as VK9KNE and VK9KND respectively.

November also has some interesting trips planned by DXers with the main point being Gus, SM5DIC, getting his 9U5D (Burundi) license renewed for mid November to March next year.

Members of the International Radio DX Group are off to Midway Island (OC-030) to sign KH4/VK2IR during Nov 24-Dec 1.

On a related theme, if you fancy being on the other end of the pile-up, Jerry W7IEW, is looking for operators for a trip to Midway next June 8-25.

Island hopping is taking off down in the Southern Hemisphere as some New Zealanders are going to Whale Island (OC-201) as ZL6WI while members of Radio Club Mar Del Plata (LU2DT) will activate a new IOTA by putting Verde Island on air between Nov 23-25 with the special call LS2D.

The largest uninhabited Island in the world is Cocos Island (TI9) at 47 sq.km and it last saw activity back in 1997 with

TI9CF and to a smaller degree TI9JJP, not able to satisfy demand, so a large scale operation with 12 operators led by TI2HMG has been announced for Feb 4-19 2002 as TI9M with plans to move Cocos Island (NA-012) back down the "Most Wanted" list.

More Italians head back to Niger in Africa between January/February next year, the calls used last March this year were 5U2K, 5U3T and 5U5A so possibly these same callsigns will be used again.

Rat Pack?

Finally this interesting story, which was sent to me by John, EI7GL, and might bring back some nightmares for Declan, EI6FR, hi!

Apparently Campbell Island (ZL9) has the largest concentration of rats in the world with an estimated 200,000 Norway rats which are thought to have come ashore from 19th Century whaling and sealing ships.

The New Zealand Department of Conservation used boats and helicopters to drop 120 tonnes of poisoned bait on remote Campbell Island in what they describe is the "biggest rat eradication programme in history".

The rats are blamed for the disappearance of several wildlife species unique to Campbell including, for you twitchers out there, a flightless teal duck. The bait was placed around the Island when the rats were not breeding and food supplies are scarce, radio transmitters were attached to several of the rats at the start of the operation and these rats have since been found dead, QSL any heard signals to the ZL9 Bureau!

Guess I'll have to re-watch the Campbell Island video again, now we know the real reason why they didn't stay on the Island by night hi!

A late item has just been announced as this issue was going to press, at the IARU Administrative Council meeting held in Guatemala October 6-8 a resolution was passed that called for the removal of Morse Code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate below 30Mhz, this supersedes any previous relevant decisions and is now apparently IARU policy! The end of an Era? Only time will tell.

That's it for another issue; please send any bands reports on to me, so, with thanks to the Daily DX, keep listening.

Anthony EI2HY

Logbook of the World

An extract from the "How's DX" column by Bernie McClenny
W3UR in the October issue of QST.

The Logbook of the World was endorsed at the July 2001 meeting of the ARRL¹ Board of Directors meeting.

Described as an electronic alternative to collecting traditional QSLs for awards purposes, the project goes beyond simply replacing printed cards with electronic versions. Once implemented, the Logbook of the World system will ease participation in the ARRL awards programmes - such as DXCC² - and in award programmes of other organisations that choose to take part. The programme will make use of electronic confirmations within a giant repository of QSO information maintained by the ARRL. Digital security methods will ensure data integrity and authenticity. The system will also provide an alternative to traditional QSL cards that must be collected and verified by card checkers for most awards. The following press release from the DXCC Desk came out on August 2nd, 2001.

Fast on the heels of approval of the "Logbook of the World" by the ARRL Board of Directors, software design to support the electronic contact-verification programme is continuing apace.

ARRL membership Services manager and LOTW Project manager, Wayne Mills, N7TG said the ARRL hopes soon to make LOTW software modules available to vendors for incorporation into their logging programmes.

These modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON. (more information about the Trusted QSL programme can be found at www.sourceforge.net/projects/trustedqsl).

"We have been in touch with 15 or so developers of popular logging software," Mills said. "We're also looking at providing a basic, do-it-yourself programme to get contact data to ARRL.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators - from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions - and maintained by ARRL.

Mills says the system will benefit big

and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organisations as well.

Once it becomes available - which could easily be as early as the middle of next year - Logbook of the World will accept authenticated data directly from computerised logs via the Internet.

"This is an e-mail based system that uses easy-to-obtain digital signatures for authentication," Mills said. "once you get your digital certificate, a few keystrokes will do the trick."

Mills said that the programme envisions user access to the LOTW "confirmed database" so an operator can see what "matches" turn up amongst his records. - such as confirmation of new DXCC entities, states or grid squares. "we'll also publish a list of logs that have been submitted."

Heading up software\development id ARRL Electronic Publications Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z along with Web Applications Developer Mark Simcik, WA1VVB. Software specifications already have been established. Advising the project are Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON, Dick Green, WC1M and Ted Demopoulos, KR1G. ARRL staffer and well-know contestster and DXer Dave Patton NT1N, who conducted the original electronic QSL project study, is also assisting.

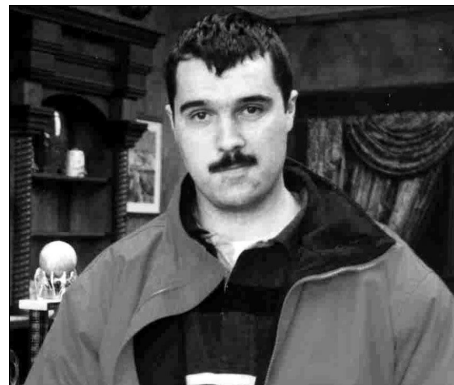
Mills said he hopes to be able to announce a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months.

This is expected to be effective after October 1st 2002.

1. ARRL stands for American Radio Relay League and is the national society for amateurs in the United States.

ARRL also runs the head office of the International Amateur Radio Union. www.arrl.org

2. DXCC stands for DX Century Club and it one of the oldest and most popular DX awards. It is sponsored by the ARRL and the minimum requirement for membership is working and having confirmations from at least 100 DXCC entities (mainly countries).



Active DXer Bernard EI4II

Euro Changeover

The ODTR issued a letter to all EI amateurs recently announcing the new charges for Amateur licenses effective from the 1st October 2001.

The license renewal will be rounded down from 8 punts to 10 Euro. This is a reduction of 16 cents or 12 pence.

The Director of consumer affairs has issued a national code on Euro changeover.

Businesses which sign up to this code of fare practice are listed on the listed on the ODCA website at www.odca.ie and are given a logo to display at their premises.

Dual pricing started on the 1st of October and lasts until the 31st of March next.

The following converted fee structure is now applicable to Radio Experimenter Licenses:

1st Year Fee	12 euros,
Subsequent Years	10 euros
Special Examinations	12 euros.

AO40 GPS Tests Successful

Reports suggest that the GPS experiment on AO-40 has undergone successful testing.

This experiment supplied and sponsored by NASA, is to determine if it is possible to get positional data outside of the GPS ring of satellites.

There are two GPS receivers on AO-40, the A receiver for receiving signals around apogee and the B receiver for signal reception around perigee.

Both receivers are operational, and Data is passed from the receivers through the RUDAK to the S-band transmitter.

Tribute to a Very Dear Friend

Stan Williams G3LQI/EI5IY SK

I first met Stan on air on one of his 2 meter slow Morse evenings in which he would transmit slow CW to help people studying for their A licences. He transmitted and then waited for an acknowledgement, but no one answered – so I went back to him and thanked him for his efforts. Thereafter, I joined the Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club; we met at the meetings and became good friends.



I admired his Morse capabilities, both with hand key and paddle. He had been a telegraphist in the RAF and continued with his CW into Amateur Radio. He was one of the best CW operators I have had the pleasure of working, who was always ready to help others – not only in ham radio but in other areas, as well. He held many call signs over the years, including DL2SW, ZB2Q, OZ/G3LQI, W3/G3LQI, GW3LQI, and EI5IY. GB4SQ was a Special Event Station for St. George's Day that he used to operate annually for many years. He was a member of FOC, G/QRP, RAFARS, and RSGB (where he assisted with the QSL buro), as well as IRTS.

Stan was a mainstay on National Field Days, was always seeking to gain recognition for the club and was intent in getting the Club call sign on the air. He was always there for the Special Event Stations, and even in his final months he operated EI5ML from Mizen Head Lighthouse. His journalistic and printing abilities were used in the editing of the Club Magazine "Ragchew".

When Stan told me of his intention to retire to live in Ireland with his wife Jean, I tried to talk him out of it. As we walked our dogs on many Saturday mornings, I tried to convince him. I just did not want to see them move away.

Stan was a very dear and close friend to me. We had a lot in common and I would like to thank him for his friendship, for his dedication to Worthing and District Radio Club and for all he did to help others. I, along with all club members can only express our deepest sympathy to Jean and his family.

Keith & Sylvia Lambert G4SLE.

Dennis Kitchen G0FCL Silent Key

Dennis Kitchen G0FCL passed away on August the 30th last following a short illness.

Dennis was well known in satellite circles and he was very active with Amsat-UK until recent months.

He was a past member of IRTS and wrote a satellite column in the Newsletter in the early nineties.

He went on to bigger things and was the author of the satellite column in Rad-Com, the RSGB's monthly magazine.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife Barbara and his two sons.

GW3SDK Silent Key

Mich  el, GW3SDK died in early September. Despite his battle with illness, he remained active on amateur radio.

Mich  el was popular among the amateur radio community and will be sadly missed by his many friends including those who he regularly conversed with in EI.

Worked All Ireland Net Frequencies

7.068 MHz
21.317Mhz
145.350MHz

CQ Magazine Millennium Awards

CQ magazine runs an impressive award program and has available special operating awards for the year 2001 to mark the start of the new millennium.

The CQ Millennium Award recognizes anyone who meets the minimum requirements for any of CQ's four permanent operating awards, minus the QSL cards, during calendar year 2001.

This is an ideal opportunity to qualify for a nice award\ without having to wait for the cards.

Hams and short wave listeners may qualify for the CQ Millennium Award in one of the following four ways:

During calendar year 2001 (UTC), either

- work stations in 500 US counties -- the basic level for the USA-CA Award;
- work 100 countries, the basic criterion for the CQ DX Award;
- work one station in each of the 40 CQ zones (the Worked All Zones basic qualification); or
- work either 400 prefixes mixed-mode or 300 prefixes single mode (CW or SSB only), as required for the CQ WPX Award.

Applications should include log extracts showing the information required by the standard award rules, in the format required by the standard award rules, plus a \$6 processing fee (\$12 outside the US).

There will be special recognition for those who qualify on the basis of more than one award program's requirements.

Applications close on March 31st 2002.

The standard rules are available on the CQ Web Site at

<<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>

Club Roundup

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

The AGM of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society was held on Tuesday October 2nd.

The Club would like to express its thanks to all members and friends who attended.

The following are the Committee for 2001:

President; Gene Larkin EI3K,
Chairman; Thos Caffrey EI2JD,
Secretary; James MI5AHG,
Treasurer; Aidan Noone EI7JC,
QSL Manager; Seamus GI4SZW
P.R.O.; Tony Allen EI4DIB.

Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club will resume their Club meetings on Thursday the 11th of October at 1930 hrs.

They will be meeting in the Institute of Technology, Moylish in room 8A106.

All are welcome.

The club will be discussing the year's events and any suggestions can be e-mailed in advance to the Chairman, Paul Kirkby EI6FE at ei6fe@eircom.net.

The Limerick Radio Club are also pleased to announce that on Thursday the 8th of November the President of the IRTS, Dave Moore EI4BZ will be addressing the meeting.

All members are asked to make a special effort to attend this meeting, as this is a rare opportunity to meet the President of the national society.

The Burren Walk, organised by the Thomond Mountaineers took place on Saturday, August the 25th last.

This is an annual event and each year the Limerick Radio Club provide radio communications along the route.

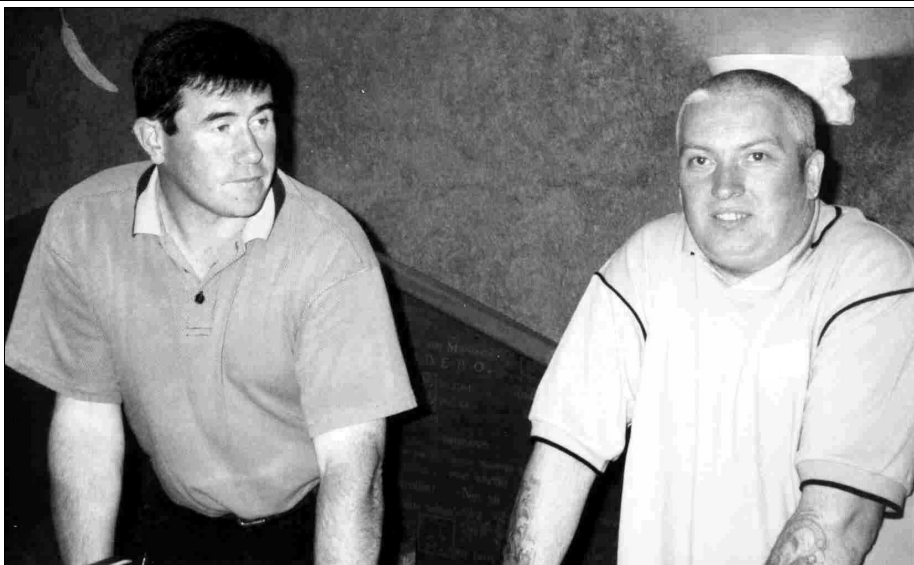
There are three different routes in the walk with the longest being 21 km reaching a height of 600 metres making communications a vital safety aspect.

This year, radio communications were provided by Tony EI9IL, Peter EI3JA, John EI5FOB and Pat EI7FHB.

Fingal Radio Club.

The Annual General meeting of the Fingal club will take place on Monday 22nd October 2001, in the club premises, Farnham Drive, Finglas at 2015 sharp.

The mini-bus day trip to the North Wales



John EI2HW and Martin EI5FDB doing brisk business at the Cork rally

Radio Rally on Saturday 3rd November next will not take place.

Circumstances beyond the club's control including changes in ferry sailing times makes the day trip impossible.

The recent Fingal trip to the Telford Radio Rally took place on the week-end of 1st and 2nd of September. They sailed over on the 0945 sailing on the new Irish Ferries Ship ULLYSES. This is the largest cruise ferry in the world and boasts 2 cinemas running first run movies as you sail. On the technical side, it is the first ferry to generate its electricity at 10kv.

The group spent the night in Broseley, close to the famous Telford Iron Bridge. This was their 7th visit.

The rally was held this year at RAF Cosford, about 15 miles from the guesthouse. This is a new venue for the rally and attracted a high number of visitors and traders, who set up there stands amongst the aircraft on display in the various hangers. The return trip was on the fast ferry, Jonathan Swift and they arrived safely back at Dublin Port at 2230 on the Sunday night.

They were honoured by a visit to the bridge of the fast ferry on the return journey.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group had their first general meeting after the summer recess on Wednesday September 26th in the Roanmore GAA Centre, Wa-

terford City.

Guest on the night was IRTS President, Dave Moore EI4BZ. Many topics, including the new UK licensing regulations, were discussed and Dave dealt with a wide variety of questions from members about the IRTS etc.

The meeting was well attended and a good night was had by all.

The EI2WRC-2 2m digipeater and EI2WRC-7 70cm digipeater are back on-air having being repaired after being damaged recently by lightning.

The nodes, currently on test, are located at Helvick Head, near Dungarvan, Co Waterford.

Some technical problems may occur and will be ironed out in the coming weeks.

Reports should be sent to searg@angelfire.com or by phone to 087-6302026.

Congratulations to Tom Phelan, John Duggan and Robbie Power who successfully completed the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group night classes leading up to the class B licence and are now awaiting their call signs.

We look forward to hearing them on the air in the very near future.

SEARG would be interested in hearing from anyone interested in participating in the night classes during the coming winter.

The classes take place one night a week at a nominal cost.

The club can be contacted on 087-6302026 or e-mail searg@angelfire.com

Cork Radio Club

Cork Radio Club would like to thank all who made the recent rally such a success.

The club mounted an entry in the SSB Field Day in early September from the usual location in Glanmire. Thanks to Jack Cashman EI7FD for the facilities.

There was a talk on Monday the 8th of October by Mrs. Barbara O'Meara on "Using Early Computers".

The club meets every Monday night at Wilton park House in Bishopstown, Cork City and visitors are always welcome

Tir Conaill

Amateur Radio Society

The Tir Conaill Amateur Radio Society held it's AGM in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey on Wednesday the 26th of September 2001.

The meeting was well attended and there was a review of the years activities and the following committee were elected:

President; Frank McCarron EI6EI,
Chairman; Danny Bonner EI6GS,
Secretary; Leo McGranaghan EI6IT,

Treasurer; Joe Arnold EI1318,
Asst. Treas.; Martin Gillespie EI8GP
IRTS Rep.; Martin Gillespie EI8GP.
The club meet in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey on the last Wednesday of each month at 9 p.m.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

IARABD

The Irish Amateur Radio Association for Blind and Disabled Group at St. Joseph's School for Visually Impaired Boys have now resumed meetings on Monday nights and also the Radio Net on 145.575 from approximately 8.15 pm. Much needed co-ax replacement has been carried out for the VHF Station and a full size 80m dipole has also been erected which will open the way for a HF station set-up for the first time. If you know anybody disabled or visually impaired and interested in Amateur Radio who would like further information, please let us know.

Contact John EI6HL at 01 8326643 or Joe EI4FV at 01 8390812 or e-mail joei4fv@eircom.net

South Dublin Radio Club

SDR members Nicholas EI5FLB, Mark EI7FNB and Joe EI7GY activated the club call during the recent Counties Contest. The QTH was the Ridge of Cappard, County Laois, from where much of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains are clearly visible. Coming after the enforced absence from the hills in April, because of Foot and Mouth restrictions, and helped by the excellent weather, the SDR crew made more than 50 contacts on a combination of FM and SSB. The antennas used were a 13 element Tonna, horizontally polarised, and a 7 element ZL-Special as the vertical antenna.

Tipperary

Amateur Radio Group

This years AGM for Tipperary Amateur Radio Group members will be held on 7th November in Clonmel.

The meeting starts at 8 pm sharp and all Group members are requested to attend as this is a very important meeting in the groups calendar year.

In other TRG news, the group is happy to announce that it will be providing emergency communications for the annual Tipperary Hill walkers event in the Glen of Aherlow / Galtee Mountains on the 20 October.

Group members will be using local UHF & VHF simplex frequencies during the event.

A number of portable operators will be taking part in the walk and a base station will be established with direct links to emergency services.

Mayo

Radio Experimenters Network

The AGM of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network returned the following officers for 2001/02:

Chairperson: Frances Taheny, EI5J
Secretary: Terry Ebdon, EI9IW
Treasurer: Gerry Cregg, EI4GD
PRO: John McDonnell, EI6IR
QSL Manager: Michael Clarke, EI3IG
Rally Director: Pdraig Baynes, EI9JA

East Cork Radio Group

The East Cork group will be participating in the upcoming CQWW contests. They will be joined at Poer Head by members of the Bristol Club for the SSB contest



Frances Taheny EI5J who was re-elected Chairperson of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

Power Line Internet Access

Local electric utility companies in Germany launched what vendors say are the world's first commercial services for high speed Internet access via the electrical power lines, a potential competitor to Digital Subscriber Line and cable.

Another commercial launch is planned in Sweden later this year, as is a trial for similar services in the Netherlands.

Earlier attempts to provide this type of service through the electrical outlet were hampered by technical problems. Now, however, the companies behind the commercial rollouts say that they have solved problems such as electromagnetic incompatibility, created by transmitters and high-frequency transmission on the power line.

Other problems that have been solved include line noise, caused by various devices connected to the power grid. It is claimed that communication on the unshielded power lines does make them emit radio frequency signals that can interfere with radio transmissions.

Germany is said to be the only country that has regulated the emission level. Alarming levels of interference were reported at trials in 1998 in England.

Worked All Britain Awards

With immediate effect, the WAB Awards Manager is Dave Rogers G0VID.

All Award claims should be sent to :-

WAB Awards Manager
5 Breamer Close
Kettering
Northants
NN15 5DD

Ferrites - The Mystery Explained.

by

Paul Kirkby EI6FE

In a number of past articles I described a method of reducing breakthrough in domestic equipment using ferrite rings.

I thought this might be a good time to explain what they are and how they work. The word ferrite comes from the Latin "ferrum" meaning iron and iron oxide is the main constituent in ferrites. The history of ferrites began several hundred years BC in an area of Asia Minor called Magnesia; the mineral discovered was Magnetite (Fe_3O_4). It was found that this mineral would attract iron; the first real use of this material was in the form of "Lodestones" as used by early navigators to locate Magnetic North.

Naturally occurring magnetite is a weak "hard" ferrite. There are two types of ferrite namely "hard" and "soft".

This does not refer to the tactile quality of the material but to their magnetic characteristic. In hard ferrites, their magnetisation is considered permanent whereas soft ferrites do not retain any significant magnetisation.

As research improved in this field it was not long before man-made hard ferrites where produced with very good characteristics. It was not until 1945 that J.L. Snoek of the Philips Research Laboratories in Holland produced the first soft ferrite for commercial applications.

It is these soft ferrites that we are interested in.

Ferrite has a cubic crystalline structure with the chemical formula XYFe_2O_3 . Fe_2O_3 is Iron Oxide and XY refers to a combination of one or more divalent metal oxides. The most common ones used are Zinc, Nickel and Manganese. These divalent metals have a unique molecular property that create high magnetic flux density when exposed to an electric field.

The blending of various combinations of these materials with the iron oxide during manufacture can allow us to develop different materials, which can have their properties tailored for any specific use. The resulting power is then pressed into the required form and sintered in a kiln. The mechanical and electromagnetic properties of the ferrite is dependent on the sintering process.

Ferrites are a type of ceramic material, which make them rigid and brittle. They

will break or chip if not handled correctly. They vary in colour from silver grey to black.

The two main properties of ferrite that make them useful to us are

1. High magnetic permeability.
2. High electrical resistivity.

Permeability is the characteristic of a material, which predicts the flux density generated in a material for a given amount of external magnetic force.

To explain, for a given amount of applied magnetic force the "density of lines of force" in a material of high permeability will be greater than a material of low magnetic permeability.

Electrical resistivity of a material is a measure of its ability to conduct an electric current. The resistivity of a material is defined as the resistance between opposite sides of a cube of the material. This is measured in ohms per centimetre. Good conductors have low resistivity while ceramics and insulators have very high resistivity.

Manganese zinc ferrites have the highest permeabilities and exhibit resistivities ranging from one hundred to several thousand ohm-centimetre. They are mainly used for low frequency applications.

Fair-rite type 73 is typical of this type of ferrite.

Nickel zinc ferrites have a lower permeability and resistivities range from several kilohms per centimetre to megohm per centimetre. In general these are used at the higher frequencies above one megahertz.

Fair-rite type 43 is one of these ferrites.

From previous articles you will have seen that by using ferrite rings we can stop RF from entering electronic devices. How does this work?

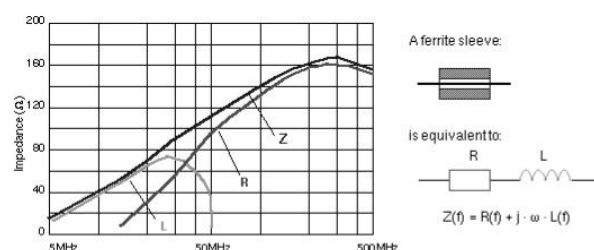
To find this out we need to recap on some basic electronics.

An *alternating current* flowing through

a conductor creates a magnetic field around it. The size of the magnetic field depends on several variables. One been the size of the current flow and the other is the **inductance** of the wire.

The inductance of a straight piece of wire is typically 20 nHenrys per inch. This value is only an example and is not a definitive value.

Placing a magnetically permeable material around the wire increases the flux density for a given current flow and therefore increases its inductance (L).



$R(f)$ = the Resistance of the wire.

$L(f)$ = the Inductance of the wire.

Z = Impedance in ohms

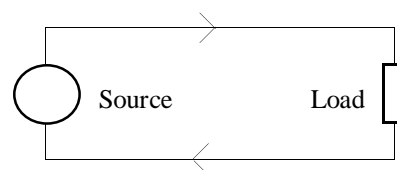
Figure 1 above shows a piece of wire, which has a ferrite sleeve around it and its equivalent circuit.

The diagram shows how the **impedance Z** increases with frequency. By removing the ferrite sleeve the inductance of the wire falls and hence the Impedance will fall.

Currents can flow in cables in two modes, differential and common mode. Under normal conditions current will flow in the differential mode.

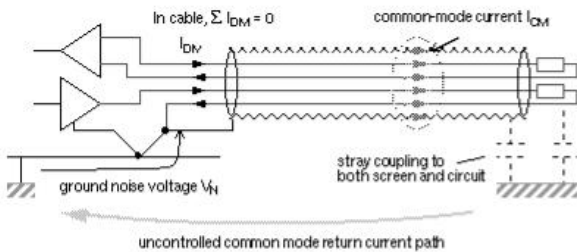
Current must flow out from the source through the load and back to the source again to earth. This will cause equal but opposite current flow in the conductors, each wire will generate a magnetic field associated with the flow of current.

But seeing that the current flows are in opposite directions the resultant magnetic field is zero, they cancel each other out.



Placing a ferrite around a cable carrying differential currents will have no effect on them.

To explain a little further, the source could simply be an audio amplifier and the load is the speaker. The current leaves the amplifier flows along the speaker cable through the speaker and back to earth in the amplifier. The resultant magnetic field is non-existent. However with **Common Mode** it's a different story. **This type of current flow is normally non intentional.** This is what happens when you get breakthrough on your audio amplifier when you start transmitting. The speaker cable acts like an antenna and carries the captured RF current to the audio amplifier where it goes to ground. This can then be heard on you speakers. Because this current is uni-directional it generates a magnetic field, this magnetic field has nothing to do with the audio current flowing. See below.



To eliminate this breakthrough we simply fit a ferrite over the cable, this will dramatically increase the inductance of the cable at that point to the common mode currents. This inductance will act as a frequency dependant resister and will inhibit the flow of RF current.

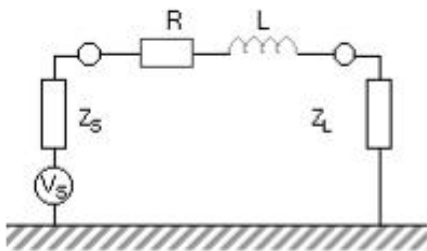


Figure 3

As you can see from figure 3, R and L represent the ferrite and the cable as you have already seen this presents an impedance to the flow of current from the load to ground. This essentially forms a frequency dependant potential divider and if the resultant impedance is large enough the majority of stray RF will be dropped across the inductor. Stopping it getting into the amplifier.

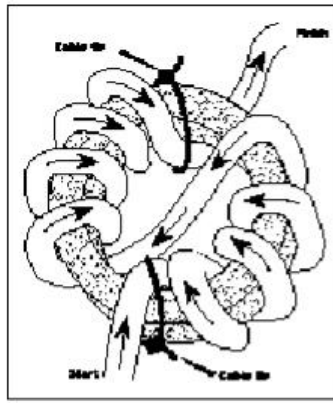


Fig 4 Recommended winding method for ring cores

Winding the cable around the ferrite ring can increase inductance.

This increase inductance is proportional to the square of the number of turns.

Therefore the more turns the better. There is also a recommended method of winding the cable around the ferrite ring and this is to minimise the self capacitance between the windings see figure 4.

It is vital that the end of the cable is threaded through the ring in the same direction and the ends of the cable should be firmly secured to the ferrite. There is no single

product that covers all frequencies. The Fair-Rite type 43 yields good results from 7 MHz up but for top band and 80m you may need to use the type 73 rings, which has a very high permeability.

There are many manufacturers of Ferrites but please stick with the well-known suppliers. At least their manufacturing processes are consistent and you know what you are getting.

I hope that this article has shed some light on these mystical devices; you now know that a Ferrite ring is not simply just a Ferrite ring and that the material of which it is made up of is vital.

The next time you are purchasing some specify the type you want, if the vendor cannot tell you what type of material they are made of then you should exercise caution.

After all you do not want to use the wrong ferrite for the job.

If you have any questions on the subject please contact me and I will be delighted to help. If I do not have the answer to hand I will make enquiries on your behalf.

Thanks must be given to the following

for their assistance with this article, Fair-Rite Products Corp, MMG Neosid, Elmac and the RSGB EMC Committee.

73's

Paul Kirkby EI6FE.

MATERIAL 33 (permeability = 850) A manganese-zinc material having low volume resistivity. Used for low frequency antennas in the 1 kHz to 1 Mhz frequency range. Available in rod forms only.

MATERIAL 43 (permeability = 850) High volume resistivity. For medium frequency inductors and wide band transformers up to 50 Mhz. Optimum frequency attenuation from 40 Mhz to 400 Mhz. Available in toroidal cores, shield beads, multi-aperture cores and special shapes for RFI suppression.

MATERIAL 61 (permeability = 125) Offers moderate temperature stability and high 'Q' for frequencies 0.2 Mhz to 15 Mhz. Useful for wide band transformers to 200 Mhz and frequency attenuation above 200 Mhz. Available in toroids, rods, bobbins, and multi-aperture cores.

MATERIAL 63 (permeability = 40) For high 'Q' inductors in the 15 Mhz to 25 Mhz frequency range. Available in toroidal form only. Is being replaced by the 67 material.

MATERIAL 64 (permeability; = 250) Primarily a bead material having high volume resistivity. Excellent temperature stability and very good shielding properties above 400 Mhz.

MATERIAL 67 (permeability = 40) Similar to the 63 material. Has greater saturation flux density and very good temperature stability. For high 'Q' inductors, (10 Mhz to 80 Mhz). Wide band transformers to 200 Mhz. Toroids only.

MATERIAL 68 (permeability; = 20) High volume resistivity and excellent temperature stability. For high 'Q' resonant circuits 80 Mhz to 180 Mhz. For high frequency inductors. Toroids only.

MATERIAL 73 (permeability; = 2500) Primarily a ferrite bead material. Has a good attenuation property form 1 Mhz through 50 Mhz. Available in beads and some broadband multi-aperture cores.

MATERIAL 77 (permeability = 2000) Has high saturation flux density at high temperature. Low core loss in the 1 kHz to 1 Mhz range. For low level power conversion and wide band transformers.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Extensively used for frequency attenuation from 0.5 Mhz to 50 Mhz. Available in toroids, pot cores, E-cores, beads, broadband balun cores and sleeves. An upgrade of the former 72 material. The 72 material is still available in some sizes, but the 77 material should be used in all new designs.

MATERIAL 'F' (permeability = 3000)
High saturation flux density at high temperature. For power conversion transformers. Good frequency attenuation 0.5 Mhz to 50 Mhz. Toroids only.

MATERIAL 'J'/75 (permeability = 5000)
Low volume resistivity and low core loss from 1 kHz to 1 Mhz. Used for pulse transformers and low level wide band transformers. Excellent frequency attenuation from 0.5 Mhz to 20 Mhz. Available tin toroidal form and ferrite beads as standard off the shelf in stock. Also available in pot cores, RM cores, E & micro; cores as custom ordered parts with lead time for delivery.

MATERIAL K (permeability; = 290)
Used primarily in transmission line transformers from 1.0 Mhz to 50 Mhz range. Available from stock in a few sizes in toroidal form only.

MATERIAL W (permeability = 10, 000)
High permeability material used for frequency attenuation from 100 kHz to 1 Mhz in EMI/RFI filters. Also used in broadband transformers. Available in toroidal form from stock. As custom ordered parts for pot cores, EP cores, RM cores.

MATERIAL H (permeability; = 15, 000)
High permeability material used for frequency attenuation under 200 kHz. Also used in broadband transformers. Available in toroidal form only.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Book Sales

Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

S.A.E. to
Peter Grant, EI4HX
37 Glenmore Park,
Dundalk,
Co. Louth
Telephone 042-9332641



For some time now I have had a regular chat with a friend from Louisiana and early this summer he visited Ireland and I met up with him at the home of Kevin Kilduff in Cavan. If you wish to publish the picture the names are : from left to right. Kevin Kilduff EI3C, Glynn Langston, WA5TAQ/EI1CN, Rev. Donal Kilduff, EI4FF and Phyllis Kilduff, XYL of Kevin and mother of Donal. Glynn is a white stick operator. He is an Educational Consultant for the Visually Handicapped and is an International Public Speaker who, despite his handicap, travels alone through the USA, Canada and Europe.

(Photo Les GI4RMA)

Outgoing QSL Service

The purpose of the QSL bureau is to facilitate the exchange of cards between IRTS Members and radio amateurs around the world.

How the Bureau operates outwards:

Cards should be sent to the outgoing QSL manager, preferably direct to his home address or through the IRTS P.O. Box.

The current QSL Manager is Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI, Baurleigh, Bandon, Co. Cork.

To facilitate the sorting and packing of cards, the following guidelines should be observed:

1. Cards should be 14cms x 9 cms (5.5 inches x 3.5 inches) to facilitate packing. Larger cards get folded and may be damaged and smaller sizes are more difficult to handle.
2. The callsign of the station worked should be clearly legible on the front of the card.
3. The callsign should also be written on the top right hand corner of the back of the card. Add QSL manager (if applicable) and country (for unusual calls).
4. Sort the cards by country. Cards for the USA should be further sorted by call areas (determined by the number in the callsign) with cards for the number 4 call area further sorted, keeping single and double letter prefixes separate.
5. Use elastic bands to separate the bundles.
6. Enclose a label from a recent Newsletter to confirm current membership.

Members are still not complying with the instructions listed above. It is not fair to expect the outgoing manager to spend his time doing what you should have done. His time is just as valuable as yours.

Please make sure that a bureau exists for the cards you send in. This is indicated on the ARRL DXCC listings.

Sort the cards by country, not alphabetically and separate each country's card with elastic bands.

Write the callsign on the back of the card. It is not fair to expect bureau volunteers to have to search the front of cards looking for QSL manager information. This requirement is to help the destination bureau with their sorting.



What are they on about now?

A look at the workings of the IRTS committee with John Corless EI7IQ

Book Sales Down

Peter Grant EI4HX told the September 15 meeting of the Committee, that sales figures from the Society Bookstall, had fallen sharply. This was attributed more to the lack of Rallies than further evidence of a worldwide recession! It is hoped that the complete book catalogue will appear on the website soon, and if the admin and set-up outlay is cost effective, it will be possible to transact book sales and membership renewals on-line. The Committee is very conscious of the security implications of on-line transactions, and members need not worry unduly, as only what are termed "Secure" on-line facilities will be considered. Traditional methods of payment, will of course remain available.

QSL Cards Outwards

Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI, in his report, also to the September meeting, that Ireland has fifteen really active QSLers and that he receives approximately 20 to 25 batches of cards per month for despatch overseas. Close on forty percent of all cards outwards are destined for Germany, - with Italy, Japan, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, 1 and 2 series USA calls, and 3 and 4 series USA calls, also popular destinations. Hugh sorts the cards out at least every fortnight and has a clearout once a month. I was disappointed to hear that many members are not following correct procedures and it is likely that in future cards will be returned to the sender, if things are not right! Essentially, many members are not using elastic bands to separate the cards into country bundles, and many are not sorting them at all. If it is a lot of hassle for you to sort them, think of Hugh, having to sort them, and many others, as well. In addition 25% have no writing on the back, - the Callsign of the destination station or the appropriate QSL Manager, should be written on the

top RHS of the reverse of the card, as you are aware! Hugh also reports major hassle with Special Event Stations, (not the stations themselves!) the recent D68C dxpedition is a good example with the QSL manager in the UK. Most cards for this station were sent with no writing on the back. D68C was a major high-profile station, but think of the amount of work Hugh has to put in, for lesser known special event stations. Also, some countries have no bureaux, yet cards are sent to Hugh, for stations from that country. Is he expected to forward them directly to the amateur in question?

The Committee has directed Hugh to return to the sender postage unpaid, - any parcels which do not meet all of the correct criteria.

AREN Talks With Civil Defence

The September meeting approved a proposal from Steve Wright, EI5DD, that he open talks with the Civil Defence on possible co-operation between that organisation and AREN. Steve also told the meeting that many changes needed to be made with AREN and that he would be reporting regularly to the Committee on his proposals.

QRM

Thos Caffrey EI2JD, had a busy summer dealing with interference on the amateur bands from various sources, on behalf of the Society. Thos is the IARU Monitoring Service Co-Ordinator for Ireland, and acts on reports from SWLs, and Amateurs, on interference or "trespassing" on the Amateur Bands, from non amateur traffic. Interference on 14.088MHz and other parts of the 20mt. band was tracked down to a commercial broadcaster in Portugal. Interference on 2mts was also tracked to a broadcaster, this time within Ireland. Protection of the ex-



**Michael Clarke EI3IG, QSL
manager for the Mayo REN**

isting amateur frequency allocations is a job for everyone, not just the Co-Ordinator and if you hear any similar interference please contact Thos immediately on (041) 9822904, who will deal with the matter through the proper channels.

WEI Awards Claimed!

Sean Nolan EI7CD, reported three new Worked EI Counties Awards. Congratulations to EI3EBB for efforts on 2 mtrs. K4JEZ and EI2CH achieved the award also. I'm still looking for the cards!!!

Noel On Board

The meeting confirmed Noel Walsh EI2JC a representative of the Tipperary club, as a full member of the Committee. He joins John McCarthy, EI8JA (South East) and Terry Ebdon, EI9IW (Mayo REN) as full members of the Committee, with their respective clubs having reached the requisite number of IRTS Members. Affiliated clubs not meeting this criterion, can of course send representatives as observers to the next meetings of the committee which will be held on November 10th and December 15th.

That's it for this issue, or as they say on a certain net, two-thirds of the way up the forty metre band, 'Stand-by the DX, I have to make a cup of tea.....'

Slán JC EI7IQ October 14 2001

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network
(Irelands Award winning club)
are pleased to announce
their first ever

Rally
in the
Belmont Hotel
Knock
(on the N17)
on
Sunday
March 3rd 2002

to coincide with
the IRTS AGM and Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance will be held
on the Saturday night
and the rally and AGM will be held
on the Sunday.

Further details in the next issue

Reading the Mail

By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #15 of "Reading the Mail" – my account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 2 July to 22 September 2001.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from the Dutch QSL bureau, EDR, FRC Cuba, LaABRE/SC, NNRL, OVSF, RAC, RCP Peru, SARTS Singapore, USKA, VK3-buro, VK8-buro, and VR2-buro.

In addition parcels from ARRL (2 kilos), DARC (10 kilos), ERAU Estonia (2 kilos), JARK (3 kilos), and PZK (3 kilos), kept up the numbers of cards.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention: AX3ITU, E44/HA1AG, E4/OK1DTP, E4/OK1FHI, PW500B, TZ6DX, 7P8AA, 7Q7KZ, and 9K2/SQ5DAK.

Considering the position of E4-land in the "most wanted country" ratings, several EI operators (including EI2CL) must be pleased to receive QSLs for their contact with Palestine.

Also very obvious during sorting was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50MHz with Eastern Europe and the USA.

For island chasers the following were noticed: BV9/JR7TEQ, ES0K, ES75M, HF0POL, KH0/AH6PW, V63DO, YM0S, ZK1XXC, 1B1/OE5GML, 6W2/ON4QM.

Congratulations to all concerned. There will be more news from the Incoming QSL Bureau in the next edition of Echo Ireland.

For now, all best wishes and good DX in 2001.
Michael McNamara, EI2CL.



Enjoying the Cork Rally were Finbarr EI1CS and Karen EI2DW

First 24 GHz Moonbounce QSO

On Saturday, the 18th of August, radio amateurs in Texas and Manitoba completed the first 24 GHz Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) QSO. Microwave enthusiast, Al Ward W5LUA, of Texas, says his QSO with Barry Malowanchuk VE4MA, Manitoba, was the result of several years of effort in trying to optimise antenna

London Amateur Radio Show

Some good news for fans of the London Amateur Radio Show.

Following the cancellation of the project that was to see Lee Valley Leisure Centre redeveloped into the National Athletic Stadium, RadioSport are pleased to announce that the London Amateur Radio & Computer Show will be returning to its original venue on a regular basis from next spring (and hopefully for many years to follow).

The date for the spring 2002 Show has now been confirmed as the 23rd and 24th of March.

News Bulletin on CW

Sundays at 1030
on 7.032MHz

Transmitted by
Pat EI9EZ

The Call of Radio

I caught the bug in school-boy days, the call of radio, of wireless.
Was it the names of far-off places that drew me in - Warsaw, Moscow, Hilversum and Daventry?

Or was it the ship 'Constitution' calling Genoa or the mysterious keying of the Morse?

Or the amber glow of valves? Take off the back to see inside. Disaster strikes.
Electric waves run through me, a burn on the hand. An end to that says mother.
No radio for you.

Was it the circuit of the 'Eagle' crystal set that started it again? Or was it in the 'Hobbies Weekly'?

Who told me to go to Peat's for diodes and Clifford's for condensers?

The *Practical Wireless* was difficult to read, but Henry's of the Edgeware Road who advertised would send things 'parcel post'.

A small transmitter kit arrived. 'I can hear you on the radio' my sister shouts.
I'm a radio man.

The closed shack door and padded earphones exclude the domestic world.

It rains outside in the November gloom. I search the band for stations.

Background noise. Nothing found but swirling storms, thunderous noise and crackling static. The noise subsides and distant stations call for contact: Milano, Leipzig, Oslo.

The dits and dahs come very fast.

We are radio men.

Steady careful calls come from the continent. Werner in Stuttgart.

I grip the key and send a reply, the time-honoured courtesies exchanged. Alex in Bologna. The clacking of the key and the rhythm of the Morse flow freely: names, locations, reports, weather. Ted in Gdansk.

Goodbyes are sent with 73's and, for a moment, silence. Then, background noise.

The hiss of background noise. Is there a station there? I grip the key. And listen.

A radio man forever.

Peadar Slattery, EI2JA.

Contest Calendar

October

27/28th	000-2400	CQWW DX Contest	SSB
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November

3/4th	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB
9/11th	2300-2300	JA International DX	SSB
10/11th	0000-2359	WAE RTTY	RTTY
10/11	1200-1200	OK/OM DX Contest	SSB
17/18th	1200-1200	LZ DX Contest	CW
17/18th	1800-0800	IARU 160m Contest	CW
17/18th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8MHz	CW
17/18th	1800-0700	All Austrian DX	CW
24/25th	0000-2400	CQWW DX	CW
30/2nd	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW

December

30/2nd	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
8/9th	0001-2359	ARRL 10 Metre Contest	CW/SSB
15th	0001-2359	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
15/16th	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
29th	0001-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/SSB
29/30th	1500-1500	Stew Perry 160m Distance Challenge	CW
29th	1800-2000	Internet CW Sprint Contest	CW

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

Marconi celebrations at Poldhu, Cornwall

Poldhu Radio Club are based on the site from where the first Trans-Atlantic signal was sent to St Johns, New Foundland on the 12th December 1901.

They have been on site for over 10 years by the grace of their patron Mr Keith Kennedy, director of the Poldhu Nursing Home (previously the Poldhu Hotel), who has let them use an out-building on his grounds.

Every year, on the 12th December, they link up with their sister station V01AA, at 4pm UTC, 1230 local time in Canada.

This year will be the centenary of this historic occasion and a new building is nearing completion and it will be the site for the celebrations.

The new building will house a Marconi Exhibition Centre and also the Poldhu Amateur Club. This is a three-way venture between the National Trust, owners of the site, Marconi plc and the Poldhu Club. It will be officially opened on December the 12th.

Brendan Trophies for 2 Metre Trans Atlantic QSO

Mark Casey K1MAP and Dick Bean K1HC have been in touch and tell us that they are trying to plan out some trans-Atlantic activity for next Summer and they would still be very interested in any glimmer of interest from anyone in Ireland.

Dick has upgraded his station further with four 17 element yagis (not on the tower yet but here in the house being assembled now), and is planning to acquire a "legal limit" amplifier to supplement his present 500 watt amplifier for 2 metres.

Both Mark and Dick are seriously interested in pursuing PSK31, meteor scatter, HSCW and any other modes on 2 metres.

So please let them know if you hear of any activity being planned and they will keep all in EI informed of any developments.

Contact them as follows:

Mark Casey, K1MAP at map@map.com

Dick Bean at k1hc@aol.com



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

Welcome to another Contest Corner, which I hope you are reading before this years CQ Worldwide Contest.

CQWW EI Records

On the opposite page you can see who holds the EI records in each of the categories. Also listed are the results of last years CQWW events.

Several new records were set and they are listed in italics.

New records were set on SSB by Jim EI8GS on 10 metres and by Tim EI8IC on 15 metres. In the low power categories, John EI7GL set a new mark in the all band section, Ken EI4DW did the business on 10 metres and Declan EI6FR did likewise on 15 metres.

In the assisted all band section, John EI8IR broke his own record with the best ever EI single operator score in any section.

In the CW even, four new EI records were set. Tim EI8IC displaced EI4BZ in the all band section, Jerry EI6BT set a new mark on 10 metres, Martin EI8GP is the new holder on 15 metres and Dave EI4BZ set a new total on 40 metres.

Several of the records are there for quite a few years and we hope that many new records will be set in this years events.

Pride of place must go to Declan EI6FR who holds no less than eight of the records. It is no surprise that Declan is a DXCC Honor Roll member. It should be noted that Declan achieved 5th place in the world in the SSB leg in the 15 metre low power section.

This years CQ WW SSB Contest will be held on October 27/28th and the CW leg will be held on the weekend of November 24th and 25th.

ARRL Contests

Also listed are the ARRL CW DX contest results for the year 2000.

A feature of the CW results was the achievement of EI7M in finishing 2nd in Europe, world 5th in the multi single section of the CW contest.

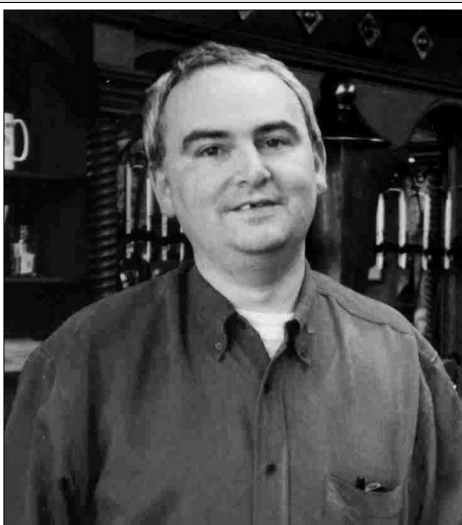
The operators were Jerry EI6BT and Dave EI4BZ.

In the ARRL SSB Contest, Ken EI4DW put in a great effort making over 2,000 QSOs.

The ARRL 10 metre contest always attracts a good EI entry and the results show Tim EI8IC making the highest score from EI.

The ARRL 10 Metre contest will be held this year on December the 8th and 9th.

VHF operators might like to have a listen to the second leg of the ARRL moonbounce contest over the weekend of November 10th and 11th.



Declan EI6FR, holder of eight CQWW EI Records.

Counties Contest

Unfortunately, there was some confusion about the Autumn leg of the 2 Metres Counties Contest this year.

Due to an oversight, the event was not flagged on the radio news and some people claim they were aware of the date.

This contest is a two leg affair and the Spring one is always held on Easter Monday and the Autumn leg is on the last Sunday of August.

So don't forget to put those dates in your new diary and do not be caught out next year.

That's the lot for this time. Plenty of contests coming up. Good DX.

Dave EI4BZ

ARRL CW 2001 Results

Call	Bands	Points	QSOs	Mults	Power
Single Operator					
EI8IC	All	883,668	1,396	211	Low
EI4DW	All	716,556	1,132	211	Low
EI8GP	15m	139,776	832	56	Low
EI5DI	10m	154,392	919	56	Low

Multi Single

EI7M		3,203,742	3,401	314	High
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ARRL SSB 2001 Results

Call	Bands	Points	QSOs	Mults	Power
EI8GP	All	269,100	780	115	Low
EI2CH	All	100,170	371	90	Low
EI4DW	All	1,171,566	2,013	194	Low

Multi Single

EI9E	All	801,216	1,391	192	High
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Multi Two

EJ3RCW	All	477,687	989	161	Low
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ARRL RTTY Roundup 2001

EI4DW		22,304	272	82	Low
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ARRL 10 Metre Contest 2000

Call	Power	Points	QSOs	Mults	Mode
EI5DI	Low	453,900	829	170	Mixed
EI8IC	High	527,924	856	191	Mixed
EI4DW	High	432,424	997	191	Mixed
EI9HQ	High	378,222	1058	169	Mixed
EI7GL	Low	178,842	727	123	Phone
EI8IR	High	317,696	1241	128	Phone
EI8GS	High	315,826	1327	119	Phone
EI4CF	High	65,508	318	103	Phone
EI8GP	Low	374,612	787	119	CW

CQ Worldwide DX Contests EI Record Scores

SSB

Category	Call	Score	QSO's	Zones	Countries	Year
All	EI8IC	1,515,746	1803	85	312	99
10	EI8GS	496,278	1761	34	124	00
15	EI8IC	356,535	1370	28	111	00
20	EI2CN	605,914	2080	35	107	84
40	—					
80	EI0REI	68,112	638	16	70	74
160	—					

Low Power (100w)

LA	EI7GL	799,006	1164	77	312	00
L10	EI4DW	279,070	1173	23	95	00
L15	EI6FR	392,657	1451	33	124	00
L20	EI8GP	48,282	300	14	64	97
L40	—					
L80	—					
L160	EI7IU	5,989	147	6	35	98

Assisted (packet)

AA	EI8IR	2,977,871	3005	123	410	00
A10	EI6FR	332,424	994	33	129	99
A15	EI6FR	203,312	769	27	104	97
A20	EI2GX	204,276	1017	27	89	97
A40	—					
A80	—					
A160	—					

Multi-Single

MS	EI9CB	9,364,212	6331	132	440	80
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CW

All	EI8IC	1,010,328	1463	76	268	00
10	EI6BT	198,128	838	31	91	00
15	EI8GP	358,150	1388	32	98	00
20	EI3DP	525,968	1715	36	106	96
40	EI4BZ	197,912	1131	23	81	00
80	EI6FR	39,545	483	9	46	90
160	EI7M ^(9HC)	123,214	858	19	72	96

Low Power (100w)

LA	EI4DW	844,190	1225	80	210	99
L10	EI5DI	238,784	1087	25	66	92
L15	EI6FR	246,848	1171	32	101	98
L20	EI6FR	264,537	1035	29	104	96
L80	EI6FR	56,161	742	12	59	97
L160	EI7IU	31,507	482	11	50	98

Assisted (packet)

A10	EI6FR	370,678	1269	36	118	99
A15	—					
A20	EI8GP	142,044	602	26	88	96
A40	—					
A80	—					
A160	—					

Multi-Single

MS	EI7M	3,815,169	3395	121	398	93
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EI Entries in the 2001 Islands On The Air Contest

EI0A	EU-115	Ireland
Multi-op	24hr Mix	IOTA Island Permanent
EI2CH	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	24hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EI4BZ	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	24hr CW	IOTA Island Permanent
EI4CF	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	12hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EI4DW	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	12hr CW	IOTA Island Permanent
EI5DI	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	12hr Mix	IOTA Island Permanent
EI7CC	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	12hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EI7GL	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	12hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EI7IQ	EU-103	Little Saltee Island
Single-op	24hr SSB	Island Dxpediton 100W
EI8GS	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	24hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EI8IR	EU-115	Ireland
Single-op	24hr SSB	IOTA Island Permanent
EJ3HB	EU-121	Clear Is.
Multi-op	24hr Mix	Island Dxpediton
EJ4GK/P	EU-006	Inis Mór
Multi-op	24hr Mix	Island Dxpediton

CQWW SSB 2000 EI Results

Call	Band	Power	Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries
EI8GS	28	H	496,278	1761	34	124
EI8IC	21	H	356,535	1370	28	111
EI7GL	A	L	799,006	1164	77	312
EI4DW	28	L	279,070	1173	23	95
EI4CF	28	L	226,240	767	33	107
EI6FR	21	L	392,657	1451	33	124

Assisted

EI8IR	A	H	2,977,871	3005	123	410
Multi-Op						
EI9E	A	H	2,502,797	2667	107	410

CQWW CW 2000 EI Results

EI8IC	A	H	1,010,328	1463	76	268
EI6BT	28	H	198,128	838	31	91
EI8GP	21	H	358,150	1388	32	98
EI4BZ	7	H	197,912	1131	23	81
EI6FR	A	L	468,198	1540	43	128
EI5DI	28	L	238,464	926	28	80
EI4DW	28	L	186,676	763	27	86



John Corless, EI7IQ,

with all the latest news on licensing matters.

New Licensing Commission Proposed.

I missed the presentation of the new licensing system in the UK, which was given at the Leicester Show, by the Radio Communications Agency, the UK equivalent of our ODTR, - I was a day late, arriving at the show.

By all accounts it was very interesting! The Agency has proposed the introduction of five classes of license there, by January next. By the new year, the UK will have Full Class A (400w, all bands, 5wpm CW), Full Class B (400w - VHF and above), Intermediate Class A (50w all bands 5wpm CW), Intermediate Class B (50w VHF and above), and Foundation (10w most bands with Morse Assessment).

Rumour has it, that the Government here, is planning to go one better, with the introduction of a new Licensing Commission to deal with all licensing matters, and this Commission may be in place before the General Election.

The commission will replace the functions of licensing divisions within most Government Departments and under it's terms of reference, is intended to (a) Streamline all licensing matters, (b) Eliminate, or certainly reduce, the number of tribunals, and (c) Ensure the safe return to office of a number of Public Representatives, currently holding marginal seats! A number of different licenses are proposed dealing with a wide range of devices and subjects, many have little or no interest to the existing or aspiring amateur.

Trawling through the various license classes one finds the following:

Class 67: Covering older monochrome television sets, vintage radio equipment (FT101Z etc), Friesian Bulls, (kept solely for social, domestic and pleasure purposes,) and Dalmatian Dogs. This essentially replaces the old Black & White License. Morse Requirement will be at the traditional 12 wpm, sent with a straight key and a straight face, except in the case of the dogs and the bulls, where a Morse Assessment will suffice. (Representations from the Irish Farmers Association, regarding the Bulls, was the deciding factor here, given the recent outbreaks of Mad Cow and Foot & Mouth diseases.)

Class 82: Covering such items as, newer TV Sets, Icom 756PRO and Kenwood VHF/UHF Sets, PSK31 and other Digital modes. This is essentially the colour licence. It is expected that viewers of TV3 may be license exempt on the grounds that they are sufficiently punished as it is, however, many may be unwilling to publicly admit viewing of this particular channel to claim the exemption! This, being a more modern license that the Class 67 above, will have no Morse requirement whatsoever, in line with current trends.

Class 89: All handheld radios, (but excluding Mobile telephones), also electric or battery powered shavers, Briggs & Stratton petrol engine vehicles, tools and appliances, and also Alinco 2mt radios. Morse requirement will be at 5 wpm.

Licenses covering the driving of all vehicles, ownership/operation of public houses, possession of firearms and explosives etc are dealt with under further classes, of no direct interest to radio amateurs/experimenters.

It is believed that unlike in the UK, Foundations will not need to be licensed, provided that these have been inspected by Homebond, or an approved structural engineer.

Licenses will be available from rural post offices, Cash Dispensing machines, some TDs, and Lotto Agents. According to one source, applicants will have to satisfy the Commission of a sufficient level of interest and competence, which can be roughly translated to mean that they will have to pay a fee for the new license. Exceptions may arise where members of the Commission have had extensions added to their houses, by applicants, or where applicants have allowed fibre optic cabling pass through their property.

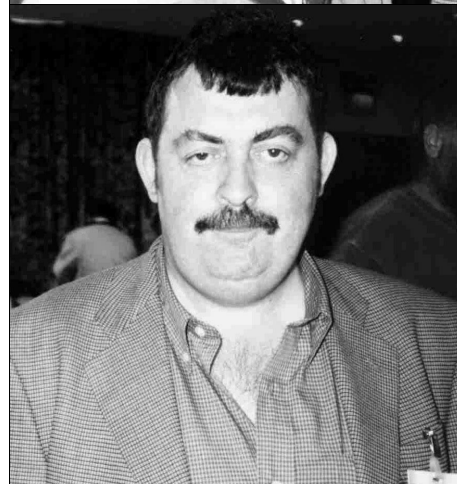
Applicants will be able to apply for more than one license, provided the licenses are complimentary. This means that applicants for Class 67 covering FT101Z will not be able to apply for a license for explosives, as transmissions from the 101 could, it is believed, lead to unintentional triggering of the explosives. In general, the Commission is not

favourably disposed to the issuing of any other license in addition to Class 67. Apparently, in the past, there was a tendency for Dalmatians to eat other license documents. The Commission has taken on board, concerns expressed by animal welfare interests in this regard. Class 89 applicants will be unable to apply for public house licenses, as the Commission believes that the excessive heat caused by the Alinco 2mt. radios may cause spontaneous combustion and possible risk to drinking punters, from fire.

Membership of the Commission will be decided later, again no Morse requirement is mentioned.

In summary, I have no news on the proposed new license or any of the other licensing matters which are, as usual, ongoing!

John Corless EI7IQ.



**East Cork Amateurs
Mike EI4HF and Hugh EI3IY**

Letters Page

Dear Editor,

I firmly believe that debate in any form is healthy and thus some sort of response is called for in reply to the letter from Mark EI7IS, where my name and call-sign are mentioned 5 times along with some slight misunderstanding and I feel a right of reply.

While the bulk of his letter is valid comment on the subject it should be taken only as PERSONAL comment and not as outlined in the very first paragraph, "*I am responding to the letter from EI3DIB, published in the last issue, firstly in my capacity as the IRTS radio news editor, secondly, in my capacity as the secretary of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and thirdly as an individual radio amateur*".

I have taken the trouble to confirm that the content of his letter is "*as an individual radio amateur*" and had not been approved by either of the above groups, the use of which is an obvious attempt to add weight to his letter by implying support from many others and not just one "*individual*". I think this can easily be understood when later he says, "*I'm an avid fan of the Internet*" & "*I make a living from it*".

The content of any letter to any Journal should always be studied with great care before sending and if possible opinions from others should also be sought, this I did with my original letter where a few commenting on my reference to a lack of activity, pointed out that I was not that active "Live on Air" myself, which is fair enough !!!

I however feel that Mark has somehow missed the basic point ?

How many times these days do we see adverts or get mail from numerous informative articles that may request some sort of reply or response if you are interested ?

How many today carry NO ADDRESS other than Email -XYZ- ? yet at the same time we hear about virus after virus going the rounds of the Internet while even today not everyone has or wants the Internet.

Sadly his second paragraph contradicts an instruction from the IRTS themselves ?

Some few years ago, when we had occasions with no news script for the Sunday news, the reasons not being important,

we would always attempt to produce something locally to hold the listeners rather than lose them, the instruction came from the IRTS, "*If there was no script then there was to be no news and ONLY that contained within the script was to be broadcast*".

Simple enough and clear enough, the news as printed in the script complete with all and any errors is to be broadcast and nothing else, if the preamble indicates a suspect error then that is all a news reader is obliged to do.

May I close by saying that I welcome all and any comments on anything I may have said or done, for only by true honest debate do we learn and progress forward. The implications above which indicated the backing and approval of many like minded amateurs, has transpired not to be true.

This letter is from myself in the singular and has no backing from any other source other than the confirmation referred to above from both groups and the test on a few to ensure no insult or derogatory implications are inadvertently contained in it.

Yours Respectfully.

John EI3DIB.

The letter in the last issue from Mark Will EI7IS was not written on behalf of either IRTS or SEARG.

These were purely Mark's own opinions.

Dave EI4BZ

Editor.

UK Licensing

Morse reduced to 5 WPM

In the UK, the Morse requirement for the Class A licence is being reduced to five words per minute with immediate effect and the Class A/B licence is being incorporated into the Class A licence.

Class A/B licence holders will be offered the choice of either retaining their existing M5 callsign or changing to an M0 callsign.

New Intermediate Licence

With effect from the 1st of October, the Novice Amateur Radio Licence will be re-named the 'Intermediate Amateur Radio Licence'.

Intermediate (A) licensees will be allowed access to all amateur radio bands while Intermediate (B) will be allowed access to all amateur bands from 50MHz upwards.

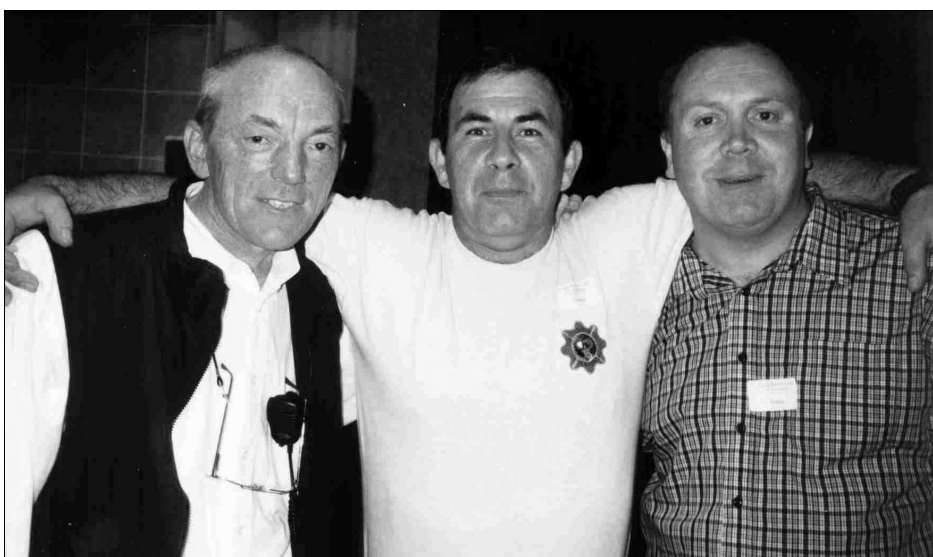
New Foundation Licence

The other change to the amateur radio licensing structure prior to the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) in 2003 will be the introduction of a new 'Foundation' licence at the beginning of 2002.

This licence will provide access to all of the amateur bands except 10 metres, and restrict licensees to a maximum power of 10 watts RF output.

Applicants for this new licence will have to show an appreciation of Morse Code and study a new simpler syllabus.

Further details are on the RSGB Internet site at www.rsgb.org.



Well known voices on the Cork 2 Metre Repeater

Vincent EI5IO, Billy EI5CQB and Anthony EI2HY

11th September 2001

The events of 11th September 2001 will be forever etched on the memories of all those who watched them on television. The first word that reached Ireland came shortly after 2 p.m. from Joe Duffy on his Liveline radio programme.

That sent many of us rushing to our TVs to watch with horror the tragic events of the remainder that day. Some have said that it was like attending a bad movie depicting events that could never happen. But happen they did, and, as first one, and then the other, of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre collapsed, we slowly came to the realisation that we were witnessing, in real time, the deaths and entombment of thousands of innocent people.

Most of those had gone to work that morning oblivious to the fact that it was their last day in this life. Others, particularly, the police and firemen, had responded to emergency calls and had sought to save others without any concern for their own safety.

Stories of "near misses" abounded – a morning appointment that had been changed to the afternoon or someone was late because he had to bring his daughter to school. All those who died, whether in New York, Washington or Pennsylvania, had one thing in common. They were all innocent people going about their normal day's work. May they rest in peace.

The Irish people, like the vast majority of people everywhere, have responded with sympathy and deep sorrow for those who died. We checked that relatives, colleagues and friends who might have been affected were safe, we went to our Churches to pray on the Day of Mourning and we signed the Books of Condolence. We read with horror of Irish people missing and wondered at the long list of Irish names among the dead and missing police and fire-fighters.

In common with sister societies around the world, IRTS sent a message of sympathy to the American Amateur Relay League.

Over the past few weeks the ARRL weekly Newsletter has chronicled the Amateur Radio involvement in the tragedy and its aftermath. As far as can be ascertained, six Radio Amateurs lost their lives, or are missing, in the World Trade Centre.

These have been named as:

Steve Jacobson N2ST of New York City – a transmitter engineer with the WPIX TV station.

Bill Steckman WA2ACW of West Hempstead, NY – a transmitter engineer with WNBC TV.

Bob Cirri Snr. KA2OTD of Huntley, NJ – a Port Authority Police Officer. (Bob was helping to evacuate workers from the building when it collapsed)

Michael Jacobs AA1GO of Danbury, CT – employee of a financial services company with offices in the World Trade Centre.

Rod Coppola KA2KET of New York City – a transmitter engineer with WNET TV.

Winston Grant KA2DRF of West Hempstead, NY – a computer technician in the offices of a medical insurance firm.

The collapse of the World Trade Centre brought down the master-transmitting antenna that served all but one of the New York City TV stations, as well as several radio stations and amateur repeaters. The one remaining TV station – WCBS – has its transmitting antennas on the Empire State Building.

In the hours following the atrocity in New York City the Amateur Radio Emergency Service was activated. Over the following two weeks, more than 500 amateurs were involved in supporting emergency officials and the American Red Cross in the relief and recovery effort.

Amateurs provided communications at Red Cross shelters, at the National Disaster Medical System centre, for various Red Cross units including the Greater New York City Red Cross Headquarters and the New York City Office of Emergency Management.

Operators worked 12-hour shifts in very difficult conditions and were roundly praised for their contribution to the recovery effort. Amateur volunteers were requested to provide VHF/UHF mobile rigs with power supply and cables, together with a mobile/portable mag mounted gain antenna. Handhelds were not considered sufficient to deal with the difficult operating conditions.

In Washington, a crew of about twenty-five amateurs staffed 6 amateur stations in the immediate vicinity of the Penta-

gon. Communications were also very difficult here because of the tremendous amount of noise from the construction-type equipment and the generators providing power and light for the recovery workers. At the site of the forth plane crash in rural Somerset County, Pennsylvania an ARES team was also involved in assisting the rescue workers.

The Oakland Tribune newspaper of Oakland, CA carried the following story in its issue of 3rd October 2001:

Like many on the West Coast amateur radio operator Robert Sanford WB6NYC was roused from bed around 6 a.m. on September 11. "My friend Mike called me," said Sanford. "He told me that the World Trade Centre had been hit by a plane".

The 44-year-old radio enthusiast immediately went to his den or "command centre" as he calls it, and turned on his computer and television. Another East Coast friend used the Internet to feed Sanford radio transmissions between police and fire officials and dispatchers. Sanford started listening and then he started recording, capturing more than two hours of graphic exchanges.

Example: Just after the first tower collapsed, a fire dispatcher responded to a voice calling for help. "I'm beneath the north pedestrian bridge" the voice said, "I don't have much air. Please send somebody". "Listen to me" the dispatcher responded. "You need to calm down and relax. We do have somebody on the way over to you. Get off the air. Remain calm"

In those first hours after the towers collapsed, the dispatcher called for a unit and often got only silence in return.

After the second tower collapsed, a police dispatcher tracked perhaps a dozen reports of officers trapped. In one emotional exchange, he tried to pinpoint the location of a seriously injured officer who could barely speak.

"Try to talk into your radio", the dispatcher said. "What was your last location? What was your last location? Talk to us". "Help me" was all the trapped officer could utter.

(Continued on page 21)

Robert Sanford's recordings of the emergency traffic following the World Trade Centre tragedy are available on his web-site: <http://www.bayscan1.50megs.com> These recordings are harrowing, to say the least. They chronicle in a very vivid way the disappearance and possible deaths of many people.

They are not for the fainthearted.

Sean EI4GK

Seen & Heard With Dave, EI4BZ

- Les GI4RMA is currently on a two week holiday in Arizona where he will be hooking up with Gerry Brooks W1IDP who used to be in Mass. and moved to warmer climes a couple of years ago. Gerry is an occasional caller to the Irish hour on 15 metres.
- How did two towers escape from a semi-state company in Cork city and end up in Castleisland?
- Lots of activity on S18 in the Tipperary area where they are trying to track down some interference on 70cms.
- Nice to hook up recently on 20 metres CW with IRTS member, Allan K4JEZ in Arkansas. He has achieved WEIC and is currently working on WAI.
- We hear that Ger EI8HT has completely refurbished his shack, with new paneling and worktop. This all happened because he gave up the cigarettes and could no longer stand the smell. We look forward to the official opening.
- Major developments are reported from the Mayo station of IRTS secretary John EI7IQ. New aerials and switching should make him a force in future contests.
- The Limerick rally planned for April 6th next at the Limerick Inn has run into some difficulty as the hotel has been sold and will not be available. A new venue and date will be announced in the near future.
- Input for this column would be appreciated. Send to ei4bz@eircom.net or 021-4883555



Members of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network advertising their rally at the recent Cork rally.

Squares Table September 2001

Call	2m	4m	6m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI5FK	63	0	222	25	0	310
EI7GL	37	9	234	5	0	285
EI4IX	81	0	172	0	0	252
EI3IO	0	11	222	0	0	233
EI3IX	5	2	211	6	0	224
EI2JD	24	0	188	1	0	213
EI7BMB	5	0	201	0	0	206
EI3EBB	1	0	186	1	0	188
EI3IS	0	0	140	0	0	140
EI2FSB	6	0	125	2	0	133
EI7CD	0	0	129	0	0	129
EI7BFB	28	0	89	1	0	118
EI9IW	6	1	85	3	0	95
EI7IQ	0	1	30	0	0	31
EI7FAB	0	3	25	0	0	28
EI4BZ	8	0	0	0	0	8
EI5FZB	6	0	0	0	0	6
EI6FZB	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI9JA	0	1	0	0	0	1

WEIC Awards

The awards manager Sean Nolan EI7CD has announced that WEIC awards number 71, 72 and 73 have been issued to Alan Foley EI3EEB for QSO's on 144 MHz, Allan Fick K4JEZ and Gerry Morgan EI2CH.

The WAI frequency 7.068 MHz is a good hunting ground for getting some new counties, so get in there and qualify for this nice award.

The basic award is for working or hearing 20 counties. For full details of the award, see page 13 of the current IRTS year book.

Slievenamon Trophy

A reminder to 70cm operators that entries are still being accepted for the new 70cm activity trophy.

If you worked EI/GI simplex FM contacts on 70cms during the Sundays of July 2001, please send a copy of your log to the Contest Manager John EI6IR at QTHR or by email to ei6ir@eircom.net.

The Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy, presented by the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group will be awarded to the leading station.

IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed below are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library. A charge of £1.50 will be made to cover the cost of posting which must accompany any application. Please send your requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork.

Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by “ How to become a radio Amateur”. (21 minutes)

Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

Kippure

A tour of the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

Howland Island Dxpedition

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft, (120 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1984

Selection of events from 1984/1985. (40 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1985

Selection of events from 1985, Field Day, Aerial lecture and River race. (120 minutes)

Pitcairn Islands

A look at life on the islands including some of the resident amateurs. (70 minutes)

Getting started in Packet Radio. CQ Mag.

How to set up and get on air with Packet. (45 minutes)

Radio Team Findland PJ9W- 1990

CQWW SSB Contest

An account of the setting up and operation of the winning multi – operator contest station by a team of Finnish operators. (45 minutes)

CQ Field Day

Setting up and operating a Field Day station for club enjoyment, training and competition American style. (25 minutes)

Getting Started in Amateur Satellites

A guide to equipment and jargon of satellite communication for the beginner. (50 minutes)

Campbell Island 1999 – ZL9CI

A record of the record breaking DXpedition to Campbell Island. Declan EI6FR was a team member. (60 minutes).

WRTC 2000 in Slovenia

The 3rd World Radio Team Championships were held in Slovenia in the Summer of 2000. Jim EI8GS and Dave EI4BZ attended from Ireland.

If you have any videos suitable for inclusion on this last please consider donating a copy to the library.

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club

Euro Radio Rally

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Further details from Tom EI2AJ at QTHR

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Yaesu YM 38 Scan Desk Dynamic Mic. 600 - 50k ...£30.00

Pat EI4HF at 0503-40086, 087-6716895

For Sale: Kenwood TS 50 ... £425.00
Timewave DSP9 Filter: Audio/CW (boxed) ... £60.00

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VHF/UHF Transceivers Used

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Icom ICT8E, 6, 2, 70cm handheld, mint.....	£275
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Yaesu FT10, HF+6M+2M+70cm, DSP, new	£899
Kenwood TS140S, 0-30MHz, all mode, 100w, boxed....	£499
President Lincoln, 10m Amateur transceiver, new	£249
Kenwood TS850SAT, auto tuner, filters etc	£899
Icom IC738, auto ATU, 100 watt, all mode, mint	£799
Icom IC728, 0-30MHz, all mode, mint	£499
Yaesu FT990AC, auto ATU, boxed and mint	£999
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Shortwave Receivers Used.

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Hitachi Worldspace satellite RX for radio stations.....	£189
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Kenwood R5000 with VHF converter	£699
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Fairhaven RD500VX, 0-1750MHz	£899
Icom IC7100, 25-2000MHz, 1000 memories	£699
AOR 3000A, 0-2036MHz,all mode	£599
Yaesu VR500 hand held, 0-1300MHz.....	£179
AOR 8200 top of the range hand held 1000 mem	£349
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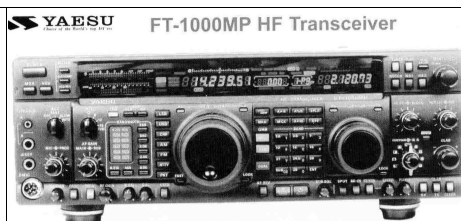
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